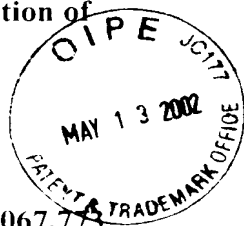


**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
MASUDA *et al.* )  
Filed: February 8, 2002 )  
Application Number: 10/067,773 )  
For: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING )  
RESIDUES FROM THE MICROSTRUCTURE )  
OF AN OBJECT )  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. KOBE.0042 )



Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in the above-identified patent application. A listing of documents to be published on the face of any patent granted from this application is submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449. Any other documents or information submitted for consideration by the Examiner are listed in this paper. A copy of each U.S. and foreign patent, or each publication or portion thereof listed or herein identified, is submitted herewith.

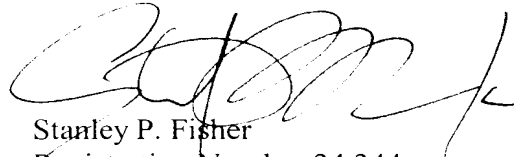
**CERTIFICATION**

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted prior to the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, no fee is due or payable at this time.

The Examiner is requested to acknowledge consideration of the information provided in this paper in accordance with prescribed procedures

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments in connection with this  
paper to Deposit Account No. 08-1480.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stanley P. Fisher", written over the printed name.

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**May 13, 2002**

Form PTO 1449

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Patent and Trademark Office  
Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant

ATTY. DOCKET NUMBER  
KOBE.0042

SERIAL NUMBER  
10/067,773

APPLICANT  
MASUDA et al.

FILING DATE  
February 8, 2002

GROUP

U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	5,873,948	2-23-99	Kim			6-24-97
	5,908,510	6-1-99	McCullough et al			10-16-96
	5,976,264	11-2-99	McCullough et al			11-30-98
	5,868,856	2-9-99	Douglas et al			7-23-97
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	5,983,082	11-9-99	Hilbert			10-31-97
	6,306,564	10-23-01	Mullee			5-27-98
	6,242,165	6-5-01	Vaartstra			8-28-98

Foreign Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	DOCUMENT NUMBER	FILING DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	60-192333	3/13/84	Japan			Abstract	X
	63-179530	1/21/87	Japan			Abstract	X
	1-170026	12/25/87	Japan			Abstract	X
	2-209729	2/9/89	Japan			Abstract	X
	8-191063	6/1/95	Japan			Abstract	X
	9-043857	7/26/95	Japan			Abstract	
	10-125644	10/13/97	Japan			Abstract	X
	11-204491	1/5/98	Japan			Abstract	X
	2001-038101	7/30/99	Japan			Abstract	X
	WO 01/33613 A2	11/1/2000	PCT			X	
	WO 98/16288	10/13/97	PCT			Abstract	X

Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant